



Volunteer Today

July 1999

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"VOLUNTEERISM LIGHTS THE WAY!"

As evidenced by headlines and wide attention, volunteerism remains a national issue. It is for this reason that we set aside one week each year to recognize the enormous contributions of men, women, and children who take the time to make someone's day or life a bit more special.

This edition of *Volunteer Today* reports on only a few of the thousands of citizen volunteers and BOP staff who "light the way."

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AND DETENTION DIVISION

Sal Seanez

As Assistant Director for the Community Corrections and Detention Division, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the thousands of citizens who volunteer their time and talents in our institutions, administrative offices, and contract facilities. This appreciation is also extended to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) staff for the service they provide to the communities in which they live.

The BOP is committed to providing high quality programs which prepare offenders for a productive return to society. At the same time, however, the BOP is committed to saving taxpayers dollars. Staff are required to conserve resources while maintaining consistent levels of service. Volunteers help us enhance our programs while containing our costs.

Traditionally, most of our volunteers have been in religious services. Although religious service volunteers have and continue to provide indispensable programs to our inmates, our goal is to recruit and retain volunteers with other skills and interests to help us meet the diverse needs of our increasing inmate population. Well-trained volunteers provide us with a system of support and valuable services for inmates. This assistance allows staff to focus on primary operations and the safety and security of the institution.

Inmate volunteer programs also provide meaningful contributions in our facilities and surrounding communities. Inmates are used in such worthwhile programs as Habitat for Humanity, English as a Second Language, and craft projects for disadvantaged youth, adults, senior citizens and seriously ill patients. Throughout this and other editions of *Volunteer Today*, we will feature programs that engage inmates in community service projects.

In 1997, President Clinton, along with General Colin Powell, raised the country's awareness of volunteerism through the National Community Service Summit in Philadelphia. In accordance with the President's vision, the Attorney General developed the Pro Bono and Community Service Program for Department of Justice employees. She encouraged staff to use their time and talents to assist the communities in which they live.

BOP staff have a proud history of volunteerism. In the last year, agency employees contributed more than 10,000 hours of services to their local communities. Each week, the BOP newsletter, *Monday Morning Highlights*, reports on programs as well as acts of volunteerism where staff have offered assistance in emergency situations.

We have accomplished a great deal, but there is still room for growth. I pledge my support and request yours in recognizing that volunteerism is everybody's business.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR, VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Alice DavisJohnson

From April 18-24, 1999, we celebrated the 26th Annual National Volunteer Week. Over the course of one week, thousands of volunteers participated in projects, while others joined the ranks of America's Volunteer Army for the first time. Recognition ceremonies and events were held to honor volunteers for their commitment and contributions. The theme for National Volunteer Week 1999 was "Volunteers Light the Way!"

National Volunteer Week began in 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed Executive Order 4228, establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteerism. Every President since then has supported the week by signing a Presidential Proclamation. Additionally, governors, mayors and other elected officials make public statements and sign proclamations in support of the week.

In order to give volunteers the recognition they deserve, award ceremonies are held at the local, state and national levels. The President's Service Awards, managed by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service on behalf of the White House, are awarded to those individuals and organizations whose programs have had a significant impact in their community. These are the highest awards given by the President of the United States for volunteerism.

Volunteers have played an important role in corrections since the 18th and 19th centuries. Because of the encouragement and persuasiveness of volunteers, many prison programs were established. By the 20th century, volunteers assumed the role of providing links between the prison population and the community and offering services to help inmates prepare for release from prison and reintegration into society.

The BOP has a long history of volunteerism. The first BOP volunteers were from the Salvation Army; they began providing religious services at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas in 1898. Today, volunteers provide an invaluable service to BOP institutions and inmates. By modeling community values and assisting inmates in their self-development, volunteers have an opportunity to impact the lives of offenders, staff, and other volunteers.

National surveys and agency tracking records provide useful data in assessing the true value of volunteerism and the crucial role it plays in the BOP. The 1999 hourly rate for volunteer service was determined to be \$14.30.

After adding the 831 volunteers providing services in our community corrections contract facilities and the 8,101 citizen volunteers that provide services to our institutions, our total number of volunteers as of December 1998 was 8,932. The institution citizen volunteers contributed 106,938 hours of service. This equates to a value of \$1,529,213.40 for citizen

volunteer contributions to our institutions. Presuming that each contract facility citizen volunteer contributed a minimum of one hour of service (831 hours), this equates to \$11,883.30. This is a total of \$1,541,096.70 worth of services for the BOP.

Volunteering is hard work. It takes dedication, but it is an exceedingly important part of American civic life. Volunteers consistently contribute the best of themselves, and for this, we are most appreciative.

VOLUNTEERISM IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS AT GREENVILLE

Through the use of volunteer resources and participation, the Federal Correctional Institution and Federal Prison Camp at Greenville, Illinois have begun to facilitate life changing programming.

The Values Program and the Mastering Life Program enable inmates to rethink their past decisions. Each of these programs empower inmates to make future decisions with positive results.

Inmates must apply to be in each of these programs. If accepted, they move to the housing unit where the programming occurs. Along with these additional programs, inmates must still fulfill work and school responsibilities. Each program lasts approximately 300 hours. Volunteers provide all of the instruction and administration.

A variety of community volunteers provide regular instruction. One local college professor volunteers in the Values Program as a regular instructor of ethics. Local clergy provide a two-day marriage enrichment course for the Mastering Life program.

In addition to community volunteers, Greenville's correctional workers make up the core of the volunteer instructors. Above and beyond their regular duties, staff members from a variety of departments volunteer their time to be instructors. The instructors include staff from psychology, unit management, religious services, recreation, education, business office and drug treatment. Courses offered include stress management, life skills, anger management, criminal lifestyles, financial responsibility, parenting, wellness and health promotion, personal power, and others.

Motivational and informational guest speakers provide the final volunteer resource for the programs. The speakers for the program serve as guest instructional lecturers or graduation speakers. The one-time guests have included, former NBA player; Bob Love, Olympic Athlete; Craig Virgin, NCAA Basketball Referee; Ed Hightower, and a CEO from a multimillion dollar St. Louis construction firm Tony Robbins of Robbins Research International.

The variety and diversity of volunteers create life transforming learning opportunities for the inmate participants. The Values Program and Mastering Life Program clearly demonstrate the power of volunteerism at all levels.

INMATES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At the Federal Medical Center (FMC) in Fort Worth, Texas, staff and inmates "make a difference" in their community. The following are just a few examples of how this is done.

From the Camp to the Community

Five inmates from the camp of the FMC have worked with staff from the Westworth Village Redevelopment Agency on an ongoing project to clear brush and other materials from the former base housing area.

In addition, ten inmates have recently been approved to participate in the Fort Worth Habitat for Humanity Program. This community service project began in late January with camp inmates going into the community one day per week to work on local Habitat houses.

Inmates are very excited about helping the community. Programs such as those listed above not only benefit the organizations for which the work is performed, but they also reflect positively on the institution as a valuable member of the community. Most important, these programs allow inmates the opportunity to give back to the community and build their self-esteem. Participation in these programs is generally a privilege that inmates take very seriously.

Volunteerism at Home

The Recreation Department at FMC Carswell sponsors two very successful community service projects which allow inmates to remain at the institution.

The John Peter Smith Hospital (JPS) Baby Blanket Project began in 1995. JPS is a county hospital that primarily treats expecting mothers who have limited resources. JPS Hospital provides yarn to Carswell inmates; the inmates provide volunteer labor, by knitting and crocheting baby blankets, booties, sweaters, hats, dresses, and other items.

Since the program began, more than 500 items have been made, and more than 50 inmates from the camp and hospital at Carswell have worked on this program. Each quarter, inmates who participate in this program receive a certificate from JPS. In fact, FMC Carswell is the only

prison in the United States that is an official member of a hospital auxiliary.

On August 28, 1997, a collaborative effort began between FMC Carswell and the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, through which inmates provide crocheted items to military families that are expecting a baby and are in need of some assistance.

Similar to the hospital partnership, yarn is provided by the Navy/Marine Relief Program, and the labor is provided by the inmates. More than 25 inmates from the Carswell hospital and camp participate in this program. Each inmate maintains a log of her volunteer hours and receives a certificate to reflect appreciation for her effort.

Each of these inmate volunteer efforts demonstrate the constructive use of time and talent, but most importantly, they each demonstrate that volunteers do make a difference.

TAKING AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

The Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) at Fort Dix, New Jersey, is fortunate to have volunteers who are active in a program called the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP).

The AVP offers three workshops at Fort Dix: Basic, Advanced, and Training for Trainers. Each workshop is three days long and occurs approximately six times per year. The program allows participants to learn new ways of thinking about themselves and others as well as nonviolent ways of handling conflicts. Specifically, the workshops help inmates learn new skills and attitudes that lead to fulfilling crime-free lives.

Among the principles employed by the program are: (1) **Affirmation**: building self-esteem and trust, (2) **Communication**: improving both listening skills and assertive methods of expression, (3) **Cooperation**: developing cooperative attitudes that avoid competitive conflicts, and (4) **Creative Conflict Resolution** : getting in touch with the inner "transforming power" to resolve violence.

By role-playing, participants learn new and creative ways to respond to conflict. Trainers assist individuals in personal growth and change. Each workshop has approximately 20 participants, two volunteers, and at least one inmate trainer who has completed the program.

Many of the inmates participating in the AVP program have completed each level of the program and are eligible to coordinate AVP workshops when they finish their sentences.

The **Training for Trainers** workshop focuses on developing team leadership methods and group process skills, which will be useful for other life skills as well. AVP also has Spanish

speaking volunteers who have offered the workshops to many Spanish speaking inmates housed at the institution.

More than 500 inmates have completed the basic training under the direction of the Psychology Department. There are twelve volunteers currently involved with the AVP program. The inmates say that these AVP volunteers have helped them deal with their anger, communicate better, have fewer prejudices, and resolve conflicts in a healthy manner. The volunteers are committed to empowering individuals to become less violent, more caring, and respectful of others.

TUCSON TABS FOR DOLLARS

In the midst of the Mojave Desert of Arizona, where the temperature often exceeds 110 degrees and seldom falls below 70, inmates and staff at FCI Tucson have found a way to "pop a top" while opening a door to families who need a home away from home.

In partnership with the Tucson Ronald McDonald House, FCI Tucson is part of a statewide network of schools, churches and other organizations that collect pop tabs. Originating in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the collection of aluminum tabs from beverage cans has become a community-wide recycling program in many sites across the country.

Since 1991, this program has yielded more than \$15,000, which has been used to expand and renovate the Tucson Ronald McDonald House as well as to support the day-to-day operations of the Phoenix Ronald McDonald House, which was expanded in 1997.

While a specific total could not be provided, according to Lisa Smith, House Manager for the Tucson Ronald McDonald House, FCI Tucson's contributions to the tab collection project have been substantial.

COLEMAN HELPS OTHERS TO SEE

During the Third Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Federal Correctional Complex in Coleman, Florida, Camp Administrator, Ricardo Martinez, announced a new and unique inmate volunteer project in partnership with the Southeastern Chapter for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

This pilot program will allow four puppies to be raised and trained by camp inmates. Volunteer trainers will come to the institution each day to help provide the inmate volunteers with proper

skills in raising and training the dogs. At the end of one year, the dogs will be matched with a visually impaired person and together, the dog and owner will undergo additional training.

HARSH CLIMATE YIELDS WARM HEARTS

Although located in what is perhaps one of the most frigid climate zones of the United States, the Federal Prison Camp (FPC) in Yankton, South Dakota is actively involved in inmate, staff and citizen volunteer programs.

Overcast skies, harsh colds and a wind chill factor of 21 degrees did not deter camp inmates from participating in March of Dimes Walk America. Completing 20 laps (five miles), 113 inmates recently raised \$336 in contributions for this worthy cause.

Staff also lend their support to charitable causes. In a full page ad, the United Way of Greater Yankton reported surpassing its goal of \$175,000 for 1998-99. The institution received the Non-Profit Gold Award for contributions made by its 108 employees. Staff contributions exceeded \$5,000.

FPC Yankton joined other BOP facilities in celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week by hosting a banquet and awards ceremony for citizen volunteers. The Caregiver of the Year Award was presented to the Faith Family Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Representatives of the ministry travel over an hour and a half to provide services to camp inmates.

Pastor Nathan Martin of Harvest Independent Baptist Church was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for his dedication over the past years.

At FPC Yankton, generous hearts prompt volunteerism and charitable giving which transcend all other extremities.

BOP Volunteers Around the Nation

A FLAME CONTINUES TO BURN

Mrs. Patricia Boeser served as a religious services volunteer at both the FCI in Waseca, Minnesota and the FCI in Sandstone, Minnesota for 20 years. On November 13, 1998, Mrs. Boeser lost her battle with cancer.

Despite the harsh winters of Minnesota and the unpleasant side effects of chemotherapy and other rigors of treatment, Mrs. Boeser continued to travel to Waseca each week to conduct interdenominational worship services as endorsed by her ministry group, Charis Minnesota. In addition to the services she provided, she recruited others to volunteer in the ministry to serve the needs of offenders at both institutions. Mrs. Boeser volunteered even in her last month of life so that her testimony of endurance in the face of hardship might serve as an inspiration to those in need.

While Mrs. Boeser is no longer with us to share her time, her husband, Roy, and son, Scott, continue to serve as prison ministry volunteers at FCI Waseca. Her commitment and belief that she could provide a valuable contribution to the lives of inmates serve as a beacon for others to follow.

FCI CUMBERLAND RECEIVES THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S 1999 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

On May 6, 1999, FCI Cumberland, Maryland, was awarded the Attorney General's Community Service Award. Receiving the award was Mark A. Henry, Warden. In issuing the award to Warden Henry, Attorney General Janet Reno stated that the nation is judged by how we treat prisoners. She commended Warden Henry and the FCI Cumberland staff for being positive role models for inmates and for their various community service volunteer contributions.

Staff at FCI Cumberland participate in partnerships in education and the community. Staff have volunteered at Washington Middle School as reading tutors. Staff also serve as after-school role models to supervise middle school students who would otherwise go home to empty houses. Staff have also fingerprinted and photographed area children as part of Project Kid Care.

The computer services staff provided instructions for a unique program called Apples from the Teacher, a project in which 24 middle school students at Beale Middle School along with their parents, attended after-school classes, to learn how to operate Macintosh computers belonging to the Allegheny County Board of Education. The computers were returned to the school at the end of the project.

FCI Cumberland staff participated in a region-wide program to collect food and other essential items for families in the Allegheny County, Maryland, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania, areas, which were struck by tornadoes in June 1998.

The staff at FCI Cumberland sponsor and participate in two American Red Cross blood drives at the institution annually. The drives are open to staff, their families, and the public. Hundreds

of units of blood have been collected. In addition, four staff have also signed up for a National Bone Marrow Transplant Program Registry.

The institution's Federal Women's Program sponsors food drives to benefit the Western Maryland Food Bank. Hundreds of pounds of nonperishable items are collected annually. The Affirmative Action Committee has 'adopted' a local family in need of help. Institution staff provide continuing opportunities for positive interaction and role-modeling throughout the year.

Twelve FCI Cumberland staff support regional fund raising efforts for the Maryland Special Olympics through its law enforcement partnership. Staff participate in a 5K torch run that not only earns donations, but actually forms the kick-off for the Spring Special Olympics.

Through these and other charitable programs, staff of FCI Cumberland have demonstrated sincere commitment to volunteerism and to their local community.

OXFORD RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

To recognize his exemplary service, the FCI and Federal Prison Camp at Oxford, Wisconsin selected Ray Rogers as 1999 Volunteer of the Year, and the Baumgartner Family as the 1999 Volunteer Group of the Year. The honorees were presented with special awards during the Annual Volunteer Banquet on April 20, 1999.

Ray Rogers serves as Senior Pastor of Spooner Baptist Church in Spooner, Wisconsin. Pastor Rogers has served as a volunteer in correctional settings for the past 17 years. His Bible studies and ministry services are well attended and well received by offenders housed at the camp and the FCI.

Twice each week since August 1996, the Baumgartner Family has traveled from Steven's Point, Wisconsin, to the FCI to provide Christian music and religious services to the inmates. Family members who participate are Woodrow Baumgartner, Senior Pastor at the Greater Point Baptist Church, his wife, Carol, and their sons, Woodrow Junior and Joel. The Baumgartners share their ministry at the FCI and are very eagerly received by the inmate population.

The annual recognition banquet at Oxford is part of a major national celebration of the contribution of volunteers. It is also an opportunity for the FPC and FCI to share their appreciation to the many volunteers who offer ongoing dedication, faith, patience, talents, and time to persons housed at each facility.

It is the efforts of the Baumgartner family, Pastor Rogers, and others who assist inmates in

their successful reintegration into society.

COVENANT HOUSE RECOGNIZES CENTRAL OFFICE

On May 21, 1999, Covenant House Washington (CHW) presented the BOP with the 1999 Exemplary Employer Recognition Award in honor of the outstanding relationship maintained over the past two years.

Since the partnership began, ten CHW youths have been placed as volunteers in several divisions. Program managers in each of the divisions have assisted the interns by providing valuable work experiences and ensuring that they were acclimated to their new work environments. Each was trained and encouraged to consider him or herself as part of the agency team.

CHW, the largest privately-funded childcare agency in the United States, provides shelter and service to homeless and runaway youth. CHW provides food, shelter, clothing and crisis care, as well as health care, education, vocational preparation, drug abuse treatment and prevention programs, legal services, recreation, mother/child programs, transitional living programs, street outreach, and aftercare.

As of June, 1999, three CHW participants were hired as full-time employees, the first of whom was Karen Beach. Karen serves as Clerk-Typist in the Volunteer Management Branch.

Among the Central Office Program Managers who were acknowledged for their dedication to this partnership were Alice DavisJohnson and Addie Richburg, Administrator and Program Coordinator for the Volunteer Management Branch; Jerome (Sam) Tarver, Office of General Counsel; Deborah Sheetz, Central Office Volunteer Coordinator; and Earl Cash and Lewis Zimmerman of the Building Services Branch.

TERMINAL ISLAND HOSTS THE ACADEMY AWARDS

On April 21, 1999, the FCI at Terminal Island (TI), California, celebrated its Fourth Annual Volunteer "Academy Award" Banquet. Utilizing the national theme, Volunteers Light the Way, staff at TI "rolled out the red carpet" to more than 90 of its 228 badged volunteers who attended the event.

The highly energetic program included the Volunteer "Rap" Tribute, Alice Holston's Award, Award of Excellence, Leadership Award, Extra Mile Award, Non-Traditional Program Award,

Best Supporting Female Volunteer, Best Supporting Male Volunteer, Best Supporting Staff Volunteer, Volunteer Coordinator's Award and the Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Six volunteers were recognized by Warden Dick Clark for nearly 15 years of continuous service. Two of the six were recognized for more extended periods of service. Benjamin Levine, a Prison Visitation and Support Volunteer, was honored for 25 years of service. Frank Mathis, founder of Mathis Bible Institute, was honored for 19 years of service.

The event could be best summarized through a quote offered by Lee Howell, Drug Treatment Specialist at TI and winner of the Best Supporting Staff Volunteer Award: "Volunteering comes from the heart. To honor those who reflect the light in their heart into the dark corners of the world is the least we can do."

INSTITUTION RECOGNIZES DISTINGUISHED VETERAN

At the age of 75, former President George Bush recently celebrated his birthday in College Station, Texas, by skydiving. At age 77, the world stared into the galaxy as former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn, returned to space in a historic journey. And at 85 years of age, Patricia A. Crowley was honored for 10 years of exemplary service at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in Chicago, Illinois.

The presentation to Mrs. Crowley was part of the 1999 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet hosted on April 24 by the institution. Mrs. Crowley is distinguished as the oldest volunteer to serve at the MCC.

In addition to Mrs. Crowley, a plaque inscribed with the names of more than 40 volunteers who have five or more consecutive years of service was presented by AFGE Prison Local 3652 President, Jeffrey Jackson. Other guests included the keynote speaker, Rev. William M. Watts, Director of Prison Fellowship for the Northern Illinois Area.

Mrs. Crowley currently serves with a small group of volunteers who help the institution chaplain plan and conduct special programs, concerts, workshops and services.